Using Pickles/Spices prepared by self-help Groups

†1896. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to use pickles and spices prepared by self-help group to add quality and taste to the food served to the passengers by Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. As per Policy, procurement of branded catering/vending items is done by the Zonal Railways from the shortlisted reputed brands of items and from local merket through spot Purchase. Instructions are also issued to all Zonal Railways from time to time to procure raw materials from standard and reputed supplier only and effective and stringent check should be ensured to avoid complaints.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Theft at National Rail Museum

1897. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thieves had struck at the National Rail Museum, Chanakya Puri, Delhi on the 28th July, 2004 and stole some parts of the Fairy Queen, a 149-year old steam locomotives;

(b) if so, the details of the goods stolen from there;

(c) whether the matter has since been investigated;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether some employees of the Rail Museum were found involved in this thoft; and

(f) if so, the action taken against them and steps taken to ensure foolproof security at the prestigious Rail Museum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 2 brass handles and 4 copper

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

pipes of 4-5 feet (1.22 to 1.52 metres) length valued Rs. 500/-approximately were found stolen on the night of 25/26-7-2004 from Fairy Queen's Engine No. EIR-22, a 149-year old steam locomotive, standing at National Rail Museum, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. On the report lodged by the Technical Assistant of National Rail Museum, Civil Police, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi has registered a case. No. 176/04 U/S 379 IPC dated 28-7-2004 and investigated Recovery of 1 brass handle and 10 pieces of copper pipes valued Rs. 400/- approximately from the bushes outside the boundary wall of National Rail Museum, has been effected.

(e) No, Sir. No employee was found involved in this case.

(f) Does not arise. Director, National Rail Museum has been instructed to make arrangements for raising the boundary wall of the Museum and provide a barbed wire fencing on it to prevent scaling of the boundary wall by criminals.

Working Capacity of Goods Trains

†1898. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working capacity of goods trains has come down to 25 per cent due to creation of new Railway Zones due to which there is rise in prices of the essential commodities as they are coming late in the market;

(b) if so, whether special efforts are being made to increase their slow speed;

(c) whether Railways is having sufficient number of wagons for carrying goods; and

(d) if not, whether Railways have issued orders to construct new wagons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. In fact during the last financial year, the increased movement of iron ore for export, coal to thermal power houses and

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